

Applicant : Deepak Thassu et al.
For : ACID LABILE DRUG COMPOSITIONS
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In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph.

As a result of the instability of acid labile drugs, pharmaceutical ~~compounders~~, compounders have taken steps to protect acid labile drugs from exposure to acid, both during storage and handling, and upon ingestion. Thus, omeprazole drug compositions have been sold in tablet form with an enteric coating. The enteric coating, of course, prevents the tablet from dissolving in the stomach, and thereby prevents the degradation of the omeprazole in the acid environment of the stomach, before it can be absorbed and perform its proton pump inhibitor function.

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph.

Unfortunately, omeprazole has proven very sensitive even to the acid content which is typical of enteric coatings. Enteric coatings typically have a potassium hydroxide equivalent acid content of 200-300 mg per gram of coating. In order to protect the omeprazole from the acid contained in the enteric coating, one manufacturer has used a subcoating which separates the omeprazole-containing portion of the tablet from the enteric coating. See United States Patents 6,207,198 and 6,248,355. Another has additionally used the alkaline salt or an alkaline reacting compound in a core containing the acid labile drug, and coated that with a subcoating. See U.S. Patents 4,786,505 and 4,853,230.

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph.

A drug resin conjugate may be prepared by slurrying anionic exchange resin particles in a solution containing an acid labile drug. After the drug complex has ~~formed~~ formed, the complex is washed and dried. The dried resin complex is screened to achieve the desired particle size distribution. A drug loading of 80-95% is typically obtained with the resin (i.e., 80-95% of the drug is bound to resin), when the drug to resin weight ratio in the slurry is about 1:2. For example, a solution containing 50 mg of omeprazole is slurried with 100 mg of anionic exchange resin particles to form a drug resin complex containing 40-45 mg of omeprazole to 100 mg of anionic exchange resin particles. Of course, the ideal weight ratio of

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active to resin particles will vary as a function of the charge to weight ratio of the active, and the exchange capacity of the resin particles. To a degree, a greater weight of a higher molecular weight active will bind to a given resin than will a lower molecular weight active, using the same charge per molecule for each active. In the case of omeprazole and this resin, we have found that the maximum amount of omeprazole which can be loaded onto the resin is about one part by weight to two parts by weight resin, or in other words the omeprazole can comprise up to 33 % by weight of the final conjugate.